at Chandigarh and Jammu-Srinagar presently held by UPSC selected incumbents;

(iv) to replace incumbents of the posts of Member Secretary & Assistant Secretary with serving Railway Officers in appropriate grades and also to replace the Group C and D' staff of all the RRBs;

(v) in place of associating non-official members belonging to SC/ST, Minority and OBC communities, in the Interview Committees, serving Railway Officers belonging to these communities will be associated, with the provision that in case of non-availability of serving Railway Officers of the respective communities, State/Central Govt./P.S.U./Bank Officers belonging to these communities and in case of further difficulty, retired Railway Officers of proven integrity belonging to these communities will be associated;

(vi) to introduce the system of duplicate carbonless Answer sheets, the duplicate Answer sheets being sent to the RRCB for independent evaluation, as considered necessary.

(vii) to set up a grievances redressal machinery to deal systematically with various complaints and representations regarding the functioning of the RRBs and selections conducted by them.

Railway stations in the capital

*51. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the findings of a report of the Non-Governmental Organisation VATAVARAN revealing that three of the busiest railway stations in the capital are slowly degenerating into breeding grounds for infectious diseases as published in the Hindu, dated 26th February, 1998; and

(b) if so, the gist of the findings of this survey report and action being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) In the Press Report, the non-governmental organisation VATAVARAN is said to have conducted a survey about the sanitary conditions prevailing at New Delhi, Delhi and Nizamuddin railway stations of Northern Railway. The report briefly indicated the dumping of garbage, aluminium foils, plastic disposables etc. for which no arrangements for disposal has been made by the railways which is causing unhygienic conditions at the stations, giving an opportunity for recycling of the disposable items and thereby causing unhygienic conditions resulting in breeding of infectious diseases. In order to ensure hygienic conditions at the stations and restrict entry of unauthorised persons various measures including restricting the entry to bonafide passengers, conducting checks to prevent unauthorised vending/ hawking and seeking help of local civic/police authorities for discouraging the rag pickers, urchins etc. to control the collection of disposable items and regular arrangements for ensuring cleanliness have been made by posting adequate number of safaiwalas under the supervision of inspectors and supervisors. In addition, cleanliness drives are also launched from time to time during which various steps which include filling up vacancies of safail walas improving the upkeep and maintenance of toilets, taking assistance of voluntary organisations like Sulabh Sauchalayas and launching of media campaigns for educating the public about the need for sanitation at the stations.

Steps have been taken to avoid use of plastic cups and glasses at the stations. Biodegradable and non-recyclable paper cups will be used in Shatabdi Trains and this practice would be extended progressively to stationary vending units. Also regular drives are being launched to control collection of garbage of rag-pickers. Instructions have been issued to the railways for organising preventive checks to stops recycling of disposable items. Efforts are also being made for creating awareness amongst the passengers to crush such items after use by the use of stickers as also by making announcements on Public Address System.